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Sikkema Asks Governor to Clarify State Contracts Executive Order

*Majority Leader says administration unclear on how to apply
EO 2003-1 to state contract letting*

LANSING – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema today asked Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to clarify her order barring certain vendors from state work and to promulgate rules that will allow departmental administrators to fairly carry out the directive.

In a letter to the Governor, Sikkema, R-Wyoming, said Granholm's own appointees are unclear about Executive Order 2003-1, which allows administrators to deny state contracts to companies that may have violated state law regulations, and said the rules are necessary to ensure the order is fairly carried out.

"Although you have indicated that this order was designed to target 'bad actors' who repeatedly and severely violated state law, not those with isolated violations, there remains a great deal of uncertainty regarding the rules for applying this order to actual contracting situations," Sikkema wrote.

Sikkema also said this uncertainty has been highlighted during the advice and consent hearing process of gubernatorial appointees. Each of Granholm's appointees who have come before the Committee on Government Operations was asked how he or she would administer this rule.

"Their responses indicated that they did not know how the process would work, that they had not had any conversations with (the Executive) office regarding the implementation of this order, or that they assumed that the Director of Management and Budget would provide guidance on this order's implementation," Sikkema wrote.

The letter continued: "Since nearly 50 days have elapsed since the issuance of this order without any further clarification, I am calling you through your Director of the Department of Management and Budget to initiate the formal administrative rules process to implement this order."

The Majority Leader also informed Governor Granholm that he planned on raising this issue during the advice and consent hearing for DMB Director Mitch Irwin, scheduled for March 4.

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28TH SENATE DISTRICT